

Wabash River may crest tonight, or early Friday

T MAR 2 3 1978

Veteran Wabash watchers continued close scrutiny of the river Thursday as it inched within a foot of a critical stage.

The Wabash River measured "21.1 feet and rising" at the river pumping station of the Terre Haute Water Works just before 8 a.m.

It is supposed to crest tonight, or early Friday, at 21.5 feet.

The danger figure is 22 feet, according to sources who advise that if it gets much above that point, it will begin to pose a much greater threat to this year's farm crops. And, beyond that, low lying homes and summer camps begin to get damp.

Among veteran river watchers with personal interest in his observations is Indiana State Police Lt. Bennie Kiburis, commander of Terre Haute Post No. 32, ISP. He has

a home literally "on the river" right now. The Wabash swirls just three feet below his front porch. That porch, he reports, has become a dock during high water, with his boat tied to it instead of the usual landing now pretty much out of service.

"Our road has water over it, so now we 'boat' instead of drive it — about 75 yards between the between the house and the car," Kiburis advises.

His river home is about eight miles north of downtown Terre Haute, with one end on the bluffs and the other on stilts which normally are on the banks of the Wabash, instead of in it. In those normal times, he estimates the width of the river at about 125 yards.

But, now, "I look across the river to Shepardsville — about a mile."

Kiburis confirmed the slow rise of the river, about five or six inches in the preceeding 24 hours. He said, "It's supposed to crest tonight. I hope it does."

That wish was widespread, with the wishers casting an eye at light rain continuing off and on overnight and well into Thursday. And some anxious glances at the weather forecast also figure in their calculations.

At the time, the National Weather Service was calling for a "slight chance of rain Friday" with the odds placed at about 20 percent.

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Community Affairs File

Expect Wabash River To Crest Here Today

S JAN 22 1974

Early winter flooding is becoming an annual routine condition in the Wabash Valley.

A crest of nearly 23 feet is expected Thursday at Terre Haute, nine feet above flood stage. Any high waters above 20 feet cover thousands of acres of cropland over the Valley, close numerous roads and cause damage to levees and dikes.

A decade ago, 15 to 18 foot floods during winter months occurred on an irregular basis. Floods of 20 feet or more spread over the Valley in late March through May. In recent years, the higher flood waters have poured down the Valley earlier in the year.

The heavy snows of December and early January, now melting and accompanied by long periods of rain over the entire Valley area, have caused the flood conditions. Reservoirs, such as Raccoon, Cataract, Mississinewa, Salamonie and Huntington, account for as much as one foot less flood water in the lower Wabash, according to U.S. Corps of Engineers estimates made prior to construction of the last three named.

Damage is inflicted in the flood plain, as silt and debris is deposited as waters recede, and topsoil is washed downstream. However, the loss is considerably lower than in April or May when seed and fertilizer is in the soil.

White river, a tributary of the Wabash, crested at Spencer Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service. It is expected to crest at Petersburg Thursday morning. The East Fork of the White will not carry as much run-off as the West Fork.

The entire Ohio River valley

is experiencing flood conditions, due to the extremely heavy snows and rain. The Great Lakes are expected to peak at one-half to two feet above normal.

Tom Dunne administrator of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, noted the heavy flood conditions as a forwarning of a high frequency flood year.

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Two weather developments moved into the area Wednesday to alleviate the high water condition: lower temperatures and clearing skies. Light snow was predicted in northern Indiana and Illinois, but not much accumulation.

Wednesday was the first day flood insurance became available at low-cost government subsidized premium rates. The insurance was made possible by action of the City Council in approving necessary legislation, and preparation of required documents by John Sheehan of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District.

Congressman John Myers in Washington aided the approval of necessary legislation, which included the flood insurance program. The program is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Heavy floods in the city and

suburbs in July, 1973, initiated the efforts to make the insurance program possible.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Wabash Bridge
Wabash River
Threatened
T.H. Star 4/23/64
By Log Jam

A log jam which, if allowed to continue would have been extremely dangerous to the Wabash Avenue bridge over the Wabash River, was completely broken at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to Charles Leeth, supervisor, State Highway Department.

The jam of tree-tops, logs and debris on the swollen river at one time was locked tight between two of the bridge's piers and extended about 200 feet north of the structure.

Workmen started freeing the piers late Tuesday afternoon and worked continuously throughout the night and Wednesday morning. The debris carried by the rapidly rising river could have dealt a devastating blow to the bridge had it not been loosened to go down the river, Leeth said.

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A large crane on the roadway of the bridge was used to free the logs and break the jam. A resident on the west side of the river near the bridge, Mrs. John Shimshak, RR 3, West Terre Haute, said, "It looked like one of the logs was almost as tall as the pier."

The Wabash River at Terre Haute measured 21.1 feet at 8 p.m. Wednesday and still was rising rapidly, according to a report from the Wabash River Pumping Station. The river now already has risen 7.1 feet above flood stage for the Terre Haute area.

County Surveyor Claude E. Reese and Roy Webb, deputy surveyor, said they were called by City Traffic Engineer Lee

See BRIDGE
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Bridge

Continued From Page 1

R. Mann. They immediately notified the State Highway Department and found it already dealing with the situation.

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Reese added that some of the trouble is caused by wood-pulp cutters, who use only parts of trees. The tree tops are left; consequently, when the river rises, they are picked up by the high water and carried along.

Meanwhile 'Harry Brentlinger, county commissioner, stated "We're having the same trouble at State Line Road bridge over Clear Creek." He said the bridge there was built with 20-foot sections of pre-cast material, which makes the piers closer and more apt to catch logs and debris. "Forty-foot sections are now available," he continued, "which if used would lessen the hazard."

Brentlinger believes the 20-foot sections of the old bridge could be used for bridges to be built or rebuilt in the county which do not require as long a span. "Thus there would be no waste for the taxpayers in replacing the Clear Creek bridge," he said.

LOCAL HISTORY

FLOODING

FLOODS

Wabash Hits Community Affairs File 18.7 Ft. Tornado S APR 22 1972 Hits Robinson

Nearly one-half inch of rain fell in Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley area Friday night which resulted in the Wabash River rising to 18.7 feet.

A spokesman at the Water Works pumper station Saturday morning said the river rose one-tenth of a foot within a 60-minute period.

Total precipitation within the past week has reached nearly three and one-half inches.

The river in many places in Vigo County has overflowed its banks. The river near the Elks Country Club is over its banks and nearly up to the old Erie Canal towpath.

The storm that pounded the area Friday night brought the heavy rains along with high winds, thunder and a tornado watch for several counties in Indiana and Illinois.

Sheriff Eugene Wood of Crawford County, Robinson, Ill., said winds which reached tornado velocity tore the roof off a nursing home causing the evacuation of 50 elderly persons to Crawford County Memorial Hospital. Wood said no one was injured.

Wood also reported several homes in the northwest section of Robinson were also damaged and several railroad cars of an Illinois Central train were also knocked off the tracks. The high winds hit the Robinson area at 10:08 p.m. Friday.

A number of farm homes and church two miles west of Robinson were also damaged, Wood said. No injuries were reported.

The National Weather Service predicted light showers through Sunday with cooler temperatures. Saturday night's temperature will dip to the mid 40's.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Committee Approves \$45½ Million Flood Control for Upper Wabash

Wabash River

5 JUL 25 1956

WASHINGTON, July 24.—(AP)—The Senate public works committee today gave its approval to \$45,500,000 worth of flood control work in the upper Wabash River valley.

Army Engineers' plans, in the works for 10 years, call for three dams, impounding up to 44,240 acres of water in floodtime in northeastern Indiana.

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THE WABASH project was part of \$285,000,000 worth of flood control projects added by the Senate committee to a House bill which called for \$1,600,000,000. Neither version of the bill appropriates any money for the work but merely authorizes construction whenever the money is available.

The Wabash project calls for dams on the Mississinewa River at Peoria, on the Salamonie River at Dora and on the upper Wabash South of Huntington.

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THE MISSISSINEWA reservoir would be a permanent lake of 950 acres and flood storage of 19,230 acres. It would cost \$17,990,000 under Army engineer estimates made last Fall. The Salamonie reservoir would have a normal area of 1,300 acres and a floodtime capacity of 17,170 acres and cost \$12,610,000.

The Huntington reservoir would hold back 7,840 acres of floodwater, backing up 23 miles to Bluffton and would cost \$11,835,000. The Army engineers plan no perm-

anent lake during periods of low river stages at Huntington.

The dam on the Mississinewa would require relocation of Somerset, south of Wabash.

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I Hear the Tread of Pioneers

By John G. Biel

3-6-59-STAR

We think we have troubles with the flooding of the Wabash River today—and we certainly do—but it is nothing “new.” David Thomas wrote in his Journal respecting his trip through the Wabash Valley in 1816: “Wherever a high piece of land appears on one side of the river, the opposite shore is low and sunken, and from Raccoon Creek, 15 miles above Fort Harrison to the mouth of the river, I believe there is no exception to this remark.

“There is one inconvenience attending this country, exclusive of the overflowing of the Wabash. All its tributary streams after a heavy shower of rain, rise above the banks and overflow the low land adjoining, which on all, is of considerable extent. In time of high water, it is one of the most difficult countries to travel through I ever saw. I have known it for more than four weeks at one time, that no person could get away from Union Prairie without swimming his horse or going in a boat.”

He remarked as he was coming out of the north end of a prairie south of the present Oak-town, Indiana, that “the flood marks on the trees were higher than we could reach on horse-back . . . these marks consist of annular spaces on the bark from which the moss has been

removed. We conjecture this happens during the floods in the latter part of winter. The ice, forming in the night, encloses the moss; and as the thaw commences at the tree, when the water subsides, the moss will be torn off by the ice in its fall . . . whenever the river rises over its banks the road must therefore be impassable.”

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ANOTHER TRAVELER—a Mr. Buck—who came down the Wabash River in March 1816 said: I came down the river at the highest stage of water; the banks were completely overflowed almost all the way. The prairies extending to the river appeared like small seas; and in many places, it was with difficulty that we could keep our boat from running into the woods. (The river) overflows its banks every Spring, except at a few places where there are handsome situations for towns. The floods do not last long; nor are they dangerous, if people will use a little precaution in removing their stock and swine.”

Edmund Dana, describing Lawrenceburgh (in Indiana on the west bank of the Ohio River) in 1816 could well be describing any town or village along the Wabash. He says: On the average, the town is not flooded more than once in three or four years.

But as the inhabitants are familiar with the occurrence, they are prepared: they anchor their fences with little trouble, so as to secure them from floating; their upper rooms receive the contents of their cellars, their cattle and hogs are driven to high ground; thus prepared they await the overflowing and the recession of the waters, unconcerned as did the family of Noah and the great deluge. The highest floods rarely continue more than eight to ten days. As no stagnant pools remain, the flooding of the town is followed by no injury to health, and by much less inconvenience to the inhabitants than can be imagined by strangers.”

Nearly 40 years before the time about which these writers speak, George Rogers Clark and his little band of bedraggled men came across Illinois to the Wabash River to attempt to recapture the Fort at Vincennes. The trip was made in February—and the Wabash River was no different then than it is now. Notes from Clark's and Bowman's diaries give us the story today. They record: “It rained nearly a third of our march. . . . In three days we contrived to cross by building a large canoe—ferried across the two channels—the rest of the way we waded, building scaffolds . . . to lodge our baggage on. . . .”

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“PART OF THE FORCE . . . went by boat but all of them really went by water. Daily rains made the journey more and more disagreeable . . . When the men were wading through mud and water, Colonel Clark would seat the drummer on his drum, on which he floated and sang. . . .”

“Clark mounted the little drummer on the shoulders of the stalwart sergeant and gave orders to him to plunge into the half-frozen water. He did so, the little drummer beating his charge from his lofty perch, while Clark, with sword in hand, followed them giving the command, as he threw aside the floating ice . . . the men promptly obeyed, holding their rifles above their heads . . .”

“It took us five days to cross the drowned lands of the Wabash River, having to wade often, upwards of two leagues, to our breast in water . . .”

“After wading to the edge of the town (Vincennes) in water breast high, we mounted the rising ground the town is built on . . .”

Since the Wabash Valley has been plagued with floods since the time of George Rogers Clark (1778) that we can readily check, it certainly is high time something is done about it all. Stephen Visser, professor of Geography at Indiana University, wrote in his book in 1944 that “the third main reason why there are many floods in Indiana and the fourth, why southern Indiana, despite its numerous valleys has many floods, are that changes produced by man have taxed the streams beyond their natural capacity.” If the Wabash Valley had bad floods before man made any of these changes, certainly it is man's definite responsibility to do something to at least reduce the floods to what might be considered normal—if there is such a thing as a “normal flood”—to restore the river by artificial means, to what would ordinarily be its “natural capacity.”

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THE LOWER WABASH RIVER carries the drainage from two-thirds of the State of Indiana as well as from a part of Illinois—and all that water certainly must go someplace in the normal course of events.

Even from time within the memory of man, there have been changes in the Wabash River—it becomes narrower and shallower and its capacity to carry waters becomes less and less. At one time—beyond the memory of man—all of Prairie Creek Township was a part of the river bed and in narrowing and deepening its bed “it has left its footprints in those lakes as far east as Moore's Pond and Goose Pond.” In times before that, the Wabash River bed extended from the hills of Deming Park to the hills on the west of West Terre Haute. This Wabash River could have—at one time—“carried abreast on its bosom all the combined armadas of the world.” Today, two motor boats have to be pretty careful in passing each other so that one does not get stuck on a sand bank! The town of Terre Haute “grew up” as a great shipping port—and the Wabash River was a navigable river carrying tons of produce to the markets at New Orleans from the wharfs on the bank of the river at Terre Haute. It could be that way again—if enough people took enough interest.

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Wabash River

Double Membership Goal

Community Affairs File

People, Potential Keys To Wabash River Future

FEB 10 1975

By JACK HUGHES
Tribune Staff Writer

People and potential are key words in the future of the Wabash Valley Association based in Terre Haute, according to Monday's meeting of the Vigo County Chapter which is planning to double its membership during the next few months.

In fact, the entire association has the same plan, based on a belief that the people of the area are beginning to grasp the potential of the association in bringing about real progress with more jobs and better use of natural resources at a time those factors are critical.

"The Wabash River is like a good wife," WVA member Sid Levin declared. "We just sort of take her for granted."

The 42 people attending the breakfast meeting at the Sheraton Inn agreed that Levin had described accurately attitudes prevailing in the past. He went on to suggest that a change for the better is underway, thanks

largely to efforts of the WVA.

That was the attitude demonstrated by officials of the local chapter, and of the parent organization in the meeting hosted by the Vigo Chapter and conducted by Shelton Hannig, membership chairman and a member of the WVA board of directors.

WVA President Maynard Wheeler was reported in New York attending to matters relating to the annual meeting of the organization slated for March 24 at the Huhman Civic University Center.

Principal speaker will be George V. Patterson, president of the American Electric Power Company with offices in New York City. WVA Board Chairman Irvin Schenk will conduct the annual meeting, expected to draw approximately 1,000 people from throughout the Wabash Valley which includes 33,100 square miles in Indiana and Illinois.

A slide program narrated by

Bob Forbes, local television sports personality, presented evidence of the organization's work during the 18 years of its existence.

In 1950, flood damage in the area amounted to about \$47 million per year.

The WVA was formed in 1957. By 1970, flood control projects supported by the organization realized a reduction of approximately \$17 million in annual flood damage.

Photographs in the slide program showed scenes from the 1950 flood and from others including 1959 when West Terre Haute looked more like a suburb of Venice, Italy, rather than an Indiana community.

"A whole generation has grown up without knowledge of the kind of threat flood waters can mean," reports Richard Shewmaker, executive vice president of the WVA, as he counts benefits of flood control projects supported by the organization.

But, he and others point out, there is more to the organization and its work for the area than just flood control, although that is one of the basic reasons for its existence.

Ecology, in efforts for clean water, and economy, in the press for conditions promoting more jobs also are elements of organization aims.

George Gettinger, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, also based in Terre Haute, pointed out that area economy already has benefitted from many new jobs—and has the potential of obtaining thousands more—from improvements in the area's water resources, principally the Wabash River, both in terms of quality and flood control providing continuous "low flow" characteristics.

Recognizing the necessity of impressing the Congress with a broad base of support in the

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3.

Wabash River

FEB 10 1975
Continued From Page One.

Wabash Valley (one of the first questions congressmen ask is "How many members do you have?") Vigo Chapter Secretary Max Miller and other leaders stress the importance of the current membership drive.

The aim of that drive is to increase local membership from 575 to 1,000 and total membership to about 10,000.

"We can do it—and we will," was the confident report.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



WVA LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—A Monday breakfast at the Sheraton Inn launched a local membership drive for the Wabash Valley Association—a citizens' group designed to promote the development of the Wabash River Basin. Among those present at the membership drive kick-off were George Gettman, WVA executive committee member and executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission; Richard Shewmaker, WVA executive vice president; and Shelton Hannig, Vigo County, WVA membership chairman. House of Photography Photo.

Vailey Association

T. H. Unit Formed

3-21-59-S
Need Cited for More

Flood Control Backing

Wabash River - Flood Control
Memories appear to recede as swiftly as the muddy flood waters of the Wabash River.

Last month the rampaging river swept into hundreds of acres of Vigo County bottomland. Last night less than 50 persons assembled for the organization meeting of the Wabash Valley Association Terre Haute chapter.

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WILLIAM PRATHER, executive vice president of the association from Mt. Carmel, Ill., discussed the accomplishments of the organization and made an appeal for increased support to continue its activities.

Prather's appearance is one of a series he is making up and down both sides of the river to awaken citizens to the need for united action behind proposed flood control projects for this area.

At the end of the meeting, Walker Robertson of Sugar Creek Township was elected chairman of the Terre Haute chapter. Other officers are Carl Hale, Prairie Creek, and Kermit Flesher, Harrison, vice presidents; A. D. Luers, county agent secretary, and Dr. W. G. Bannon, local physician, treasurer.

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FIVE OTHER directors also were named. They are Garland Clouse Linton; John Donnelly, Fayette; William Farmer, Prairieton; Robert Dunlap, Otter Creek, and Paul Haas, Pierson. Joe Francis of Prairieton was elected to serve as a delegate from the local chapter on the advisory board of the Wabash Valley Association.

Prather was introduced by Joseph L. Quinn Jr., charter member of the association and one of 14 directors, who presided at the meeting.

The executive vice president noted the status of the Wabash Valley Compact which needs only the signature of Illinois Governor William Stratton before seeking congressional approval.

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HE ALSO noted that the recent session of the Indiana General Assembly "did more for flood

control than all other sessions combined."

But he was quick to add that the momentum which has carried the Wabash Valley Association this far may be lost unless there is more general understanding, enthusiasm and support.

Community Affairs File

Prather speaks for an organization which embraces an area of 33,100 square miles with 2,500,000 residents in Indiana and Illinois. He described this area last night as "the most underdeveloped valley in the world."

To prove his point, he stated that:

1. The southern half of Indiana is losing population. Between 1950 and 1957, he said, Vigo County alone suffered a population decline of 7,400 persons.

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2. **NEW INDUSTRIES** are coming into the northern part of the state and expanding at a rate of two-to-one, when compared with activity in the southern portion.

3. During the recent flood, it was estimated at one point that the equivalent of 140 acres of land, plough share deep, was sweeping past Vincennes in the turbulent Wabash River every hour.

4. The estimate of farm crop damage in the valley during the past two years runs to many millions of dollars annually.

Picturing the other side of the coin, Prather gestured to the south where the Ohio River Valley, with its controlled and regulated waterway, is expanding at a phenomenal rate.

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"WE MUST MAKE water our greatest asset, not our largest liability," Prather declared. Only by controlling the flow of water in the valley will industry be convinced that its water requirements can be met, he stated.

The expansion of industry is vital to the growth of this area, the executive vice president said.

In an effort to slake this insatiable industrial thirst, Prather offered the Wabash Valley Compact as the most promising method. If approved by Congress, the pact will allow Indiana and Illinois to make arrangements regarding development of the bi-state area.

Co-ordinated support for the completion of flood control reservoirs now in the planning stage can be focused by the Wabash Valley Commission which the pact will create.

ALTHOUGH Prather stressed the importance of the bi-state compact, he made it clear that the Wabash Valley Association will strive to continue its support of regulated valley growth from industrial, agricultural, civic and recreational points of view.

Such continued support, he emphasized, will be possible only if citizens up and down the valley express their interest by becoming active in Wabash Valley Association programs.

"This program has shot into orbit," he declared. "Either we build membership to continue our momentum or we slow down and put the brakes on progress."

Others who spoke at the meeting were County Agent A. D. Luers, Dr. Bannon and Mrs. Chauncey Baldwin, Montezuma, a director of the W. V. A.

Luers urged the construction of flood control reservoirs but cautioned that such construction must be coupled with an effective soil erosion control program to keep these reservoirs from filling with silt.

He advocated flood retention dams at the small watershed level as essential to the overall success of the broad flood control program for the entire valley.

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Flood Control

Vigo County Public Library
Wabash River Community Affairs File

Continued Area Rains Cause Harvest, Flooding Problems

JAN 4 1973

By BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

Unrelenting rains have caused additional harvest problems for area farmers, but Wabash River pumping station officials note a change in the river's flood stage as they reported its first stationary reading in four days.

Latest reports from the pumping station recorded the Wabash River's flood stage at 19.9 and stationary. National Weather Service predicted the Wabash to crest at 20.3 feet for Wednesday morning, but officials note the morning reading was 19.9 feet and rising.

At Izaak Walton Beach in West Terre Haute, reports indicate the water rose to 20 feet, six inches, causing owners to move their trailers to higher sites on the beach. It was noted that approximately three-quarters of the beach was underwater and that the bath house was surrounded by water. However no damage to either the trailers or buildings was reported.

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In the Dresser area, water was reported standing, due to the heavy rainfall, but no significant flooding was mentioned.

No overflow has resulted at the Wabash River levee in West Terre Haute. Levee committee member, Gil Bedino, told reporters, "We have no danger at all concerning the overflow of the levee" "It would take a rise of 27-29 ft. to overflow, and in no way are we in danger of flooding," Bedino remarked.

The largest flood reported in the Wabash Valley happened on March 27, 1913, when the

river stage rose to 31.2 ft. Another large area flood resulted on May 20, 1943 as the river stage rose to 30.5 ft.

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Again in mid-June of 1958 a flood resulted and Governor Harold Handley declared an emergency status for the area. National Guardsmen, penal farm inmates along with other

volunteers battled countless hours in an attempt to save the Sugar Creek Levee. Some 1,500 persons were forced to evacuate their homes.

The rains coupled with the abnormal weather, experienced throughout the region for the past four months, has caused a prolonging of harvesting for area farmers.

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Max Miller, Vigo County Extension agent, told Terre Haute Star newsmen, "The continual inclement weather is increasing thereby increasing harvest problems, especially with the harvesting of corn."

He noted that due to the moistness and freezing weather being experienced here, much of the corn will be unfit to harvest, if and when machines make it into the fields.

"The matured corn is very similar to an older person," compared Miller. "When exposed to harsh weather both are quick to catch infections disease," he added.

Miller said that during the months of Nov., Dec., and Jan. the corn becomes quite brittle and is apt to break and fall to the ground especially with the aid of wind and rain. If the ear of the corn is exposed to the mud and water then chances of infection are very high, and the crop becomes unfit to use.

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Wabash River

Wabash at 20-ft, Rising;

Community Affairs File Vigo County Public Library

Major Storm Hits Midwest

JAN 4 1973

By CAROL THORLTON
Tribune Staff Writer

The Wabash River presented a threat to river bank residents and farm operations as it rose to 20 feet Thursday morning and continued on the way upward. Forecast for Friday calls for a 50 per cent chance of more rain in this area.

In other parts of the midwest, a major winter storm was moving along making interstate highway driving extremely hazardous.

Gil Bedino, West Terre Haute Levee Association committee member, reported that there is no danger of the levee overflowing.

"It would take a rise to 27 to 29 ft. to overflow," he said. "In no way are we in danger of flooding.

Steady or slowly falling temperatures are forecast for today. Lows tonight will be in the upper teens to low 20s. Highs Friday low to mid 30s. Winds will diminish. Extended forecasts calls for very cold Saturday, slightly warmer Sunday and Monday.

Hulman Field Flight Service said the extremely high winds were part of a cold front that passed over the Wabash Valley area. It was one of two that hit during a 12-hour period. A sec-

ond front went over at 6 a.m. Thursday and FAA officials were expecting high pressure conditions to be followed by more precipitation by Friday evening.

Area farmers, already plagued by inclement weather for the last two months, received more bad luck Wednesday evening. Winds reaching speeds of 45 miles per hour around 6:45 p.m. scattered ears of corn across hundreds of acres of muddy fields.

Harvey Steuerwald, an Ellettsburg River bottoms farmer in Clay County, uttered the thoughts of most farmers Thursday when he commented:

"I hope I don't ever see another year like this one."

Steuerwald has about 300 acres of corn in the field and over 100 acres of soybeans.

John Oxendine, president of the Greenfield Bayou Association, remarked that since the first of December the ground has been too soft and wet for the equipment to get in the fields and harvest the crops of corn and soybeans.

"The water is all over the

river bottoms and still rising. It is doubtful that the crops can be salvaged in the bottom lands," Oxendine says.

Vigo County Health Department authorities are continuing to monitor any complaints of residential flooding. Paul Welsh, administrative assistant to Dr. Hubert T. Goodman, health officer, said as yet the department has received no reports of water in homes.

Anytime the ground becomes saturated with water or rivers exceed their banks, health authorities watch for incidents of sewer system failure. Surface water or flooding can cause systems to overflow, endangering residential water supplies.

Another problem when flooding occurs or there is heavy rain in a river valley is the failure of industrial spray fields. The waste normally absorbed in the ground can be carried into a waterway and downstream to municipal water supplies if a system fails to operate.

Conditions over the state included a temperature drop.

Moderate showers swept across the state Wednesday, dropping one-half to nearly an inch of precipitation over the countryside before the new year was three days old.

The wet weather moved

(over)

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JAN 4 1973

Wabash Rising

Continued From Page One.

ahead of a cold front with strong winds gusting to more than 45 miles per hour Wednesday evening. Temperatures slid from a range of 43 at Lafayette to 51 at Evansville during the day to 32 at South Bend to 38 at Evansville during the night.

Forecasts called for the wind to diminish slowly in intensity with temperatures falling slowly but steadily during the day to overnight lows ranging from the mid teens north to the mid 20s south. Highs Friday will range from the upper 20s to upper 30s.

There was a chance of snow flurries this afternoon and tonight extreme north, and a chance of light snow late Friday over much of the state except the extreme south where light rain may occur.

Rain totals for 24 hours ending at 7 a.m. EST today included Indianapolis .81, Evansville .77, South Bend .68, Chicago .66, Fort Wayne .62, Louisville .57, Lafayette .44 and Cincinnati .43.

The extended outlook for Saturday through Monday called for "very cold" weather Saturday with lows that morning ranging from zero to 10 above, followed by slightly warmer with lows from 5 to 15 above Sunday and Monday. Highs will range from 15 to 25 Saturday and 25 to 35 by Monday.

MAJOR WINTER STORM IN MIDWEST

By United Press International

A major winter storm tore through the Midwest today, transforming interstate highways into writhing lanes of snowbound cars, touching off a flurry of auto accidents and triggering power failures.

Three men were killed and one was injured Wednesday when a pickup truck collided

with a trailer truck in freezing rain near Ottawa, Ill.

A blizzard bowled through eastern Nebraska, stopping traffic on major highways leading into the metropolitan Omaha and Lincoln areas and causing at least one death.

Winds of up to 52 miles per hour hurled tons of snow through eastern Nebraska, reducing visibility to zero and creating massive traffic jams. At least one storm-related traffic death was reported.

A Five-Hour Ordeal

The trip between Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., normally takes 40 minutes, but snow-clogged roads and stalled cars turned the trip into a five-hour ordeal Wednesday. Snow piled up to seven inches at some locations and was whipped into drifts by the strong winds.

Catholic schools remained closed today in Omaha as a result of the storm and school officials were expected to make a decision today as to whether public school students should be given the day off.

The Nebraska State Patrol warned motorists to stay off Interstate 80, the state's main east-west highway, between Omaha and York. A four-mile-long traffic jam built up in U.S. 75-73 south of Omaha.

Near-blizzard conditions were reported in Iowa, forcing the municipal airport at Des Moines to shut down.

One of the worst ice storms on record left some 30,000 homes and offices in Kansas City, Mo., without power and sent hundreds of persons to homes of friends or relatives or to churches and schools to keep warm. Power company employees worked through the night in an effort to restore power.

Traffic Moves at a Crawl

Traffic moved at a crawl, when it moved, as heavy snows clogged roadways in southeastern Minnesota.

Heavy rains soaked the Chicago area, causing some delays at O'Hare International

Airport as the rain blocked out part of the airport's approach radar. Several rivers and streams overflowed but flooding was not severe and no additional flooding was expected today.

Residents of Samava, Ind., prepared for floodwaters from the Kankakee River. Only one road leading to the Newton County community remained open late Wednesday and the community's 350 residents asked residents of surrounding areas to help sandbag their homes in preparation for the flooding.

Fair weather was confined to the West Coast, Texas and the lower Mississippi Valley today.

Early morning temperatures ranged from 26 below zero at Butte, Mont., to 77 at both Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

DEC 29 1973
Wabash River Rises To 17.5 Feet

S-DEC 22 1973

Flood Control (Wabash Valley) Community Affairs File

S-DEC 22 1973

Terre Haute's Wabash River rose to 17.5 feet Thursday and officials are expecting the river to crest Saturday at 18.5 feet, approximately 4.5 feet above flood level.

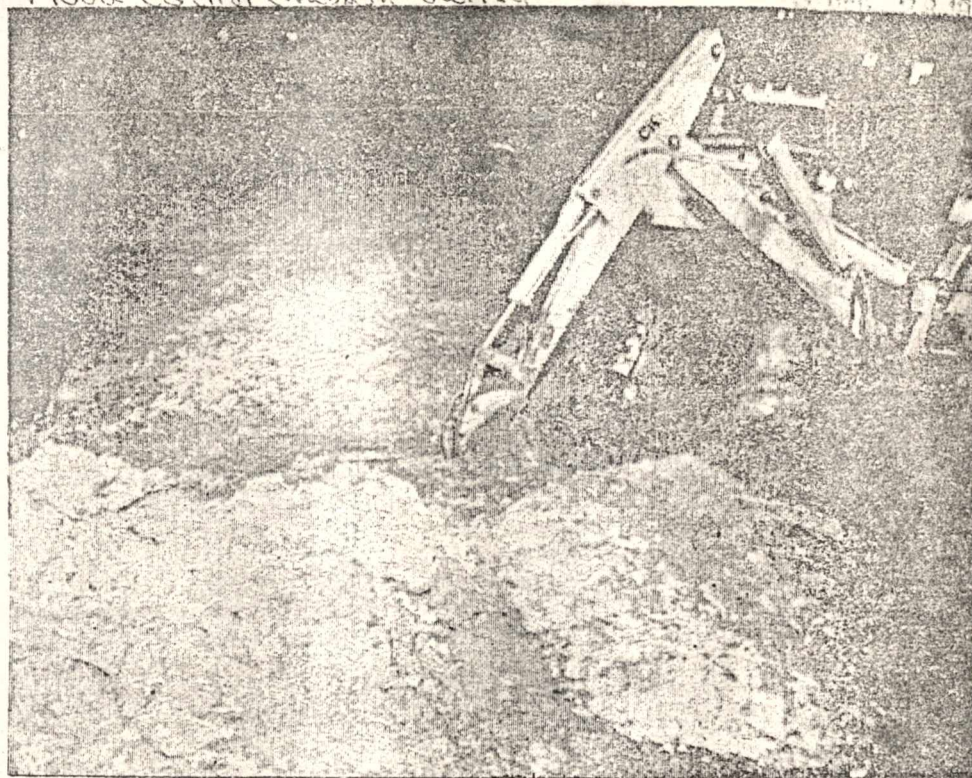
Some flooding was reported Wednesday night near the Margaret Avenue area, but temperatures dropped late in the night to stop Wednesday's light snows.

The Bible Baptist Church, 2500 Margaret Ave., was once again threatened by flooding waters Wednesday night, but sandbagging efforts averted a possible deluge.

Terre Haute city emergency crews worked into the early Thursday morning hours combatting flooding waters near Poplar Street and Fruitridge Avenue. A trench was dug near Poplar Street to drain waters into a diversion ditch south of the flooded street.

Jeff Lew, city engineer, said because rains halted late Wednesday night, it was not necessary to construct the trench across Poplar Street. The trench digging stopped at the edge of the street, Lew said.

Neighbors in the area threatened to seek a court injunction to stop the trench construction. Apparently the city needed approval from the State Highway Department to cut into Poplar Street (S.R. 42).



DIGGING POPLAR STREET TRENCH—Emergency crews from the Terre Haute Street Department and Sewage Department dug a small trench Wednesday night near Poplar Street and Fruitridge Avenue to drain flooding waters. According to Jeff Lew, city engineer, crews were going to continue the trench across Poplar Street, but the rain ceased and additional digging was not necessary. Residents in the Poplar Street-Fruitridge Avenue were opposed to the trench digging and threatened to halt it via court injunction. (Photo by Kadel)

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Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

Wabash River

Continued From Page One.

boil had to be plugged by sand bags on Thursday. Most of the leakage is said to be occurring just south of the Blue Hole near the junction of the Arbuckle and Rigney Rds.

The levee begins near the Blue Hole and follows the river to a point about three miles from the Sullivan County line. It is about seven miles in length.

No problems have been found as yet with the West Terre Haute levee, according to Gil Bedino, president of the association.

Bedino did say, however, a watchful eye is being kept on the levee by several residents.



TWO OFFICIALS from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were summoned to Terre Haute Friday to inspect several sand boils that developed at the Greenfield Bayou levee. Inspecting the damage were John D. Updike, left, park ranger for the corps at Patoka Lake and John R. Schumacher, a park ranger at Monroe Lake. The officials recommended to county officials that all roads near the levee be closed to traffic. Strausburg Photo.

Officials Watching River Closely Here

By PAT BARNES

Tribune Staff Writer

With rain in the forecast for Saturday night and again on Sunday, county officials along with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are keeping a watchful eye on the Wabash River.

The river stage at 7 a.m. Saturday was recorded at 22.3 feet and falling. It had crested on Friday at 22.8 feet, or about eight feet over flood stage.

The weather forecast calls for

a 90 per cent chance of rain Saturday night and 30 per cent chance of precipitation on Sunday. The extended outlook for Monday and Tuesday calls for the possibility of additional rain.

County officials are carefully watching conditions at the Greenfield Bayou levee after a number of sand boils were discovered Friday.

Gil Leonard, Vigo County Civil Defense director, said Saturday the boils at the levee will continue as long as the river is this high.

Leonard said that local rains don't present the major problem, it's the amount of precipitation upstream that will give Vigo County residents problems.

The civil defense director said that an evacuation plan has been devised in the event a

flood should occur.

Leonard said, right now, officials just have to wait and watch before anything can be done.

Friday's discovery of the sand boils at first aroused some concern since they resulted in levee seepage.

Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were called to the scene Friday afternoon. Following an inspection, they said the levee was safe. The engineers recommended that roads around the levee be closed to traffic as a precautionary measure.

A number of residents near the levee have had to resort to using boats for transportation.

At least one large hole in the levee resulting from a sand

Continued On Page 2, Col. 7

Special Collections

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FLOODING

Wabash River

Here Crests Community Affairs File At 20.5 Feet

S MAY 23 1974

Planting in bottomlands of the White and Wabash rivers may be delayed until too late to realize fall crops, according to farmers in the area.

The Wabash River at Terre Haute crested at 20.5 feet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, but is expected to fall slowly due to additional rains over central Indiana early Wednesday.

Although Terre Haute experienced only .3-inch of rainfall between 7 p.m. Tuesday and 7 p.m. Wednesday, some areas to the north reported as much as an inch, and near Clermont, Ind., from 3 to 5 inches, according to the National Weather Service.

Presently, the Wabash River is 6 feet above flood stage, with practically all bottomland covered with overflow.

White River will go further above flood stage as waters from White Lick Creek move downstream. Flooding conditions exist from Spencer to below Edwardport, and the fall here is also expected to be slow.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

River now lower

Community Affairs File

Farmers hurt by water

DEC 27 1977

By ROB ALLEN
Tribune Staff Writer

Wabash River is steadily dropping below flood stage along its various checkpoints, but last week's high water caused problems for lowland farmers.

With 95 percent of the water damage behind them, farmers are now hoping for frigid temperatures to harden their ground enough to get heavy equipment into the fields.

Neither Dwight Kumph of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service nor Max Miller of the Cooperative Extension Service had specific damage figures, but both were certain farmers in the river bottoms were hurt by flood water.

"I'm sure farmers in the river bottoms had problems," Kumph said. "The water level is going down now, but water is probably still in the fields and it's too wet to go in."

Miller said he has received "isolated calls" from farmers with water problems and "anything over the top of the

is going to be a problem."

Miller said most farmers have "a large percentage of their crops in so they should not be economically devastated" but, he added, "the 10 or 20 percent that's out might be their profit."

"They probably have enough to pay the bills, but profit or more may still be out there."

Now, Mother Nature can go from goat to somewhat of a hero, with some clear, cold temperatures.

"We can get the top inch or two of topsoil froze," Kumph said, "but it needs to get farther down than that to get the heavy equipment in. If it stays cold, it will be to the farmers' benefit."

"We're hoping for freezes now," Miller agreed. "If we get some real cold temperatures in the next few days, that will help."

According to the National Weather Service in Indianapolis, it appears that the weather intends to cooperate for the next few days at least. Clear and cold days are predicted for Tuesday and Wednesday with temperatures in the

teens and twenties. Little chance of precipitation is forecast for Thursday through Saturday.

All checkpoints along the Wabash reported a falling river stage and most were below flood level.

According to the weather service, Carmi, Ill., reported 25.7 feet Monday morning, which is 1.3 feet below flood stage. That same checkpoint was .3 foot above flood stage eight days ago.

Montezuma reported a 13.1 reading, which is below flood stage, compared to a 22-foot-level a week ago. Clinton reported 2.4 feet and steady, some 19 feet lower than last week; Hutsonville, Ill. reported 18.7 feet Tuesday morning compared to 19.6 last Monday; and Vincennes, the only checkpoint still above flood stage, reported a 16.8 foot reading Tuesday morning. Flood stage there is 16 feet.

Terre Haute reported a 13.3 feet level, which is .7 foot below flood stage. Terre Haute had a 18-foot-river stage a week ago.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Wabash River rising

Crop damage is extensive in area

By ROB ALLEN

Tribune Staff Writer

Seventeen-point-two feet and risin'.

That's the situation on the Wabash Tuesday at Terre Haute as flood waters continue to come down from points north and extensive damage is done to area cropland—damage estimated at \$5 million so far.

With a usual flood stage of 14 feet, but much crop acreage at 12 feet, Terre Haute area farmers fear a disaster from the flood water if the level does not drop off soon to allow the muddy liquid to move out.

Congressman John Myers blasted the state and Army Corps Engineers for "shortsightedness" in withholding support for constructing flood control reservoirs between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

Myers said the Corps of Engineers estimate 50,000 acres will be destroyed by the flooding.

"I challenge the Corps of Engineers and the State of Indiana to tell farmers along the river, many of whom stand on the brink of bankruptcy because of this flood, that there is no justification flood control structures in the Lafayette area and south to Terre Haute," Myers

charged.

"This is but one flood—and damages are \$5 million—and the situation could be much worse if we get more rain in the next few days."

Rain is not predicted by the National Weather Service, but more bad news is in the offing. What area farmers want now is a quick dropping off of the river level. But, National Weather Service spokesmen said Tuesday morning that more water appears to be moving down to this area and the high river stage could remain for several more days. The river is expected to remain above flood stage until Saturday.

The river level should start to come down some Thursday, but it apparently will not be the rapid fall farmers are hoping for, the spokesmen said.

Covington's stage began leveling off late Monday giving some optimist signs that the high water level won't last much longer, the spokesmen added.

Myers requested the annual draw down of water at Harden Lake in Parke County be halted during the flood in order to avoid aggravation of what is already a serious situation.

Rex Mook, a Myers staff assistant, has been dispatched to the Wabash

Valley for an on-site inspection of the flood damage. Mook reportedly met with Corps officials Monday and is to visit the area from Terre Haute north on Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to the NWS, area Wabash River stages were: Montezuma, 20.6 feet and falling; Clinton, 20.2 feet and rising; Hutsonville, Ill. 17.2 feet and rising; and Riverton, 15.4 feet and rising.

The spokesman said earlier crest forecasts for the various stations will have to be revised. "It is so broad (water coming from so many tributaries) it is difficult to predict how much more water has to come down," he said.

(over)

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Community Affairs File



FLOOD CONTROL NEEDED? — This aerial view shows the extensive flooding along the Wabash River from heavy weekend rains in Indiana and Illinois. Congressman John Myers said Monday that the flooding "points up once again the short-

sightedness" by the state and Army Corps of Engineers in withholding support for flood control structures. Myers said damages from the flood are estimated at \$5 million. Related photo on page 3.

House of Photography Photo

WABASH River

LOCAL HISTORY

INDIANA ROOM

PAMPHLET FILE

Bo County Public Library

FLOODING - STATISTICS

WABASH RIVER
MAJOR FLOODS
The behavior of the Wabash River has been a topic of conversation throughout the valley for many years. Each time it leaves its banks, it brings back

T.H. Star 4/24/64

memories of the "big flood" of 1913 or 1943. The younger set remembers the flood of 1958.	
Crest stages for major floods which have occurred at Terre Haute:	
Aug. 3, 1875	26.7 feet
March 26, 1904	25.7 feet
May 10, 1908	20.0 feet
March 27, 1913	31.3 feet
Feb. 2, 1916	23.0 feet
April 19, 1922	24.4 feet
May 30, 1927	20.9 feet
Jan. 16, 1930	24.0 feet
March 25, 1933	20.1 feet
May 15, 1933	25.1 feet
Jan. 16, 1937	21.3 feet
April 28, 1948	21.2 feet
Jan. 23, 1949	20.4 feet
Feb. 18, 1950	21.8 feet
April 9, 1950	20.0 feet
Feb. 23, 1951	22.8 feet
June 29, 1957	22.8 feet
June 15, 1958	27.7 feet
Feb. 14, 1959	24.7 feet
April 28, 1961	21.4 feet
March 10, 1963	20.6 feet
The information from the year 1875 through 1943 was taken from a report of the U.S. Army Engineers, dated April 9, 1946, and the information subsequent to 1943 was taken from the Terre Haute Water Works Company office.	

No Major Flooding Expected From

5 MAR 27 1978

Community Affairs File 1

Wabash River

The threat of flooding from the Wabash River began to ease Sunday as the river crested at 21.8 feet and slowly began its descent.

This along with a good forecast for Monday and Tuesday that predicts no rain eases the minds of many area residents including Gil Leonard, local Civil Defense Director.

If the river stage would climb to 22 feet, Leonard said that the river would be monitored by the hour all up and down Vigo County instead of only a couple of times daily. The Wabash would also be monitored all up and down Vigo County, Leonard said.

"The people of this area are not in any danger," Leonard said. "The river stage would have to rise to 28 feet before many people would be directly affected."

However, numerous farms are already under water and there is a possibility of some damage to winter wheat. Many farmers may have to wait a long time before they can get to their fields to begin work this spring. "There are more economics involved instead of a people problem," noted Leonard.

The great amount of accumulated water on the roads has left the area

roads in one of the worse conditions they have been in for a long time. Currently, the only area still greatly troubled by the standing water is the River Road in West Terre Haute, according to the Vigo County Sheriff's Department.

Various law enforcement agencies throughout the area have kept a close watch on the situation over the Easter holiday weekend and all report that the problem is easing and that there is no apparent danger at the present time.

Terre Haute area residents also missed most of a winter storm that left the northern two-thirds of the state under a sheet of ice. Fortunately, the temperatures in the Wabash Valley have been near or above the freezing mark, keeping the precipitation in the form of a slight drizzle over most of the area.

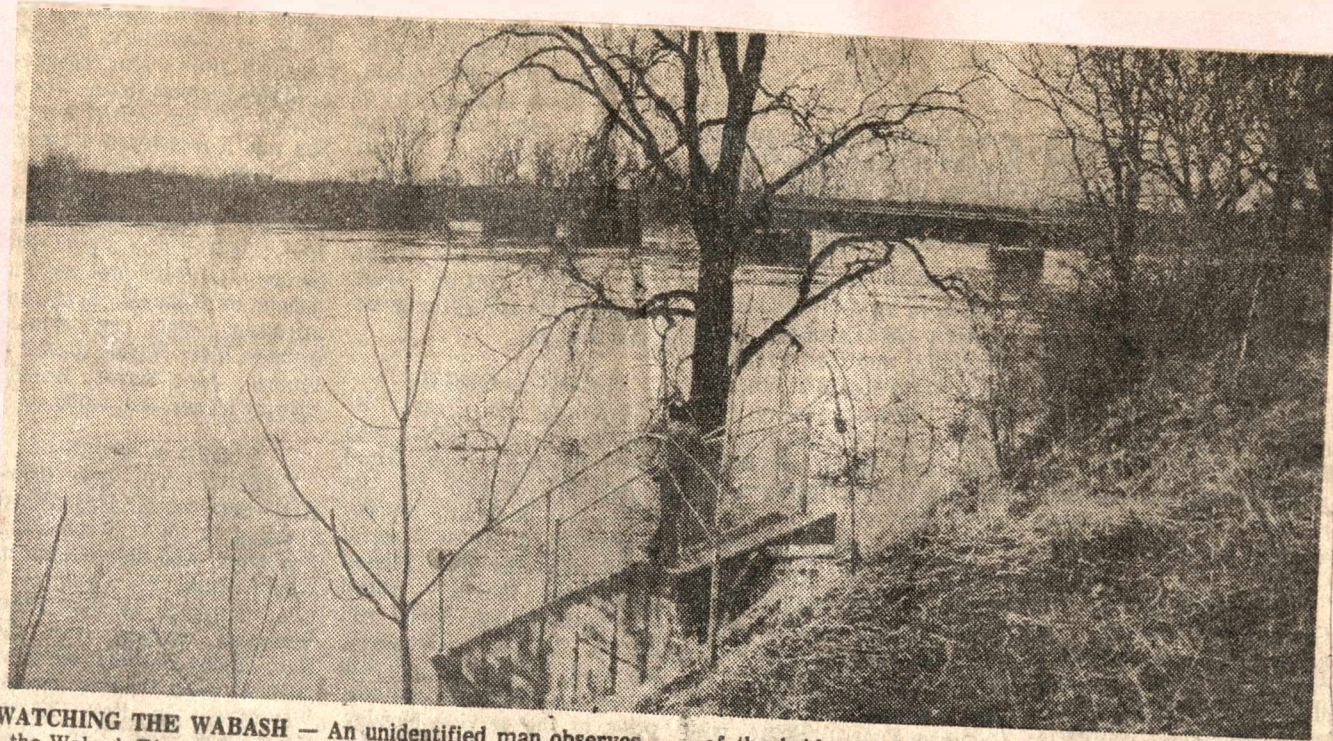
The forecast for this area predicts temperatures in the 40s and 50s for the next couple of days that should improve the situation.

Never-the-less, many weekend activities were postponed because of the cold weather including the annual Easter Egg hunt at Deming park that is sponsored by the American Legion. That activity will now be conducted April 2.

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Community Affairs File (file)



WATCHING THE WABASH — An unidentified man observes the Wabash River from the east bank of the river, just south

of the bridge on U.S. 40 at Terre Haute. The river stage Sunday night was listed at 21.8 feet and falling.

(Star Photo: Kadel)

Wabash River

is nearing
crest here

MAR 22 1978

Community Affairs File

"We're in pretty good shape for the shape we're in," is the gist of reports from Wabash watchers as the river rises toward a crest currently expected at about 21.5 feet Thursday evening at Terre Haute.

That is seven and one-half feet above flood stage, according to National Weather Service reports through the Vigo County Civil Defense office. Wednesday morning the figure was 20.7 and rising.

VCCD Director Gil Leonard says his office also keeps in close touch with several residents who are veteran Wabash watchers. And, they report, "No sweat. But, if it gets up to 22 feet, then we'll start to worry a little."

Paul Begeman of the Vigo County Cooperative Extension Service reports that the only crops that would be in much danger at the present river stage would be winter wheat. "But, with the weather last year, there wasn't much planted around here." Current concerns in agriculture here relate to how long it will be before fields will dry out enough to permit work. And, the river will have to drop bottomland well below flood stage before farm fields can be worked.

Police agencies serving rural areas reported no calls for help from residents believed threatened by high water around Terre Haute. But, it's a different story right downtown in Fort Wayne. Three rivers converge there and are climbing toward their highest crests in 65 years, according to the Associated Press. The Maumee, St. Marys and St. Joseph rivers threaten a large area and 150 people already had been evacuated by Wednesday.

The Wabash was to crest about 10 feet above flood stage Wednesday evening at Lafayette; 11 feet above flood stage at Montezuma; and seven feet or so above flood stage Thursday at Clinton and Terre Haute.

Wabash River level falls

TS MAY 17 1981

The Wabash River level began to fall Saturday at Lafayette, having crested at just over 19 feet; 8 feet above flood stage, but high Tippecanoe River waters kept around 1,000 White and Carroll County residents from returning to their homes.

Indiana 43 north of West Lafayette was flooded by the Wabash Friday night, but became passable Saturday, state police said.

State police and others said the Tippecanoe River, after rising more than 17 feet above flood stage, appeared to be subsiding, but no official figures were available.

National Weather Service officials

at Indianapolis, said they do not monitor the Tippecanoe on weekends, as they do many other, more major rivers.

At the Lake-Newton county line, Indiana 55 north of Thayer and south of Shelby was reported impassable by state police, with more than six inches of water on the pavement, because of Kankakee River flooding. The river forms the county boundaries at that point.

In White County at Monticello, authorities said the situation was unchanged, with no more evacuations, but no families returning home.

The waterflow through the Oakdale and Norway dams, which control the

levels of Lakes Freeman and Shafer, was lighter but still running heavy, keeping the Tippecanoe high below the dams.

Lake levels were kept down enough so resorts and campgrounds were open, including Indiana Beach on Lake Shafer.

At around noon, Oakdale's volume was 14,340 cubic feet per second and Norway's 13,395, compared with generally no more than 5,000 cubic feet per second in normal times.

Saturday was bright and dry, but the National Weather Service forecast more rain for Sunday and Monday.

Viigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File

Wabash River Wabash to crest Wednesday night

T SEP 1 1981

By ROB SHAW

Tribune Staff Writer

The Wabash River is expected to crest Wednesday evening between 16 and 16½ feet if the area doesn't receive any additional major rainfall. However, the chances for rain in the area are still favorable, as the National Weather Service is calling for a 70 percent chance of showers the rest of today.

At the Terre Haute pumping station this morning, an official reported that the river stood at 14 feet, eight inches and was rising.

Reporting stations in Montezuma and Clinton said that the Wabash was at 18-8 and rising and at 17-7 and rising, respectively.

Albert Shipe, hydrologist for the National Weather Service in In-

dianapolis, said that it is rather unusual for flooding to occur this time of the year.

"It seems like we got the August monsoons in the wrong place," Shipe stated.

Shipe said the last time he could remember the Hoosier state having flooding this time of the year was in October of 1977.

The Terre Haute area received heavy rainfall Monday night as the recording station at the Wabash River measured 1.14 inches.

At Crawfordsville, Sugar Creek had crested at 9-9 and was falling rapidly, according to Shipe.

Due to the Monday storm, many intersections in the city were flooded and also, due to the electrical display which accompanied the rain, many burglar alarms were set off, keeping

city police busy.

A handful of farmers in the area were contacted this morning by The TRIBUNE to see what damage the heavy rainfall had done.

Bill Miller, a farmer in the Riley area, said that his general crops weren't that severely affected by the rains, but he did point out that his "hay business" was hurt.

According to Shipe, whatever flooding does currently exist shouldn't be around for long.

"We don't anticipate that long of a flood... as long as we don't get that much more rain," he said.

However, the Wabash Valley area could be in for more of Shipe's dreaded "more rain" as the extended outlook contains a chance of rain every day through Saturday.

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Wigo County Public Library

T SEP 2 1981

Wabash River

Community Affairs File

River continues upward surge

By ROB SHAW
Tribune Staff Writer

Since the area received about 1.53 inches of rainfall since 5 p.m. Tuesday, the Wabash River continued its upward surge this morning as it reached 16 feet, five inches — nearly 2½ feet above flood stage.

As a result of the additional heavy rains, more lowland flooding was reported along the river in northern and west-central Indiana and along Sugar Creek in western areas, especially Montgomery County.

National Weather Service hydrologist Albert Shipe Tuesday had predicted a Wednesday evening crest for the Wabash River at Terre Haute if the area did not receive any more precipitation.

But, with the 1¼-plus inches of rain, Shipe had to revise his crest

forecast and he said that, barring any more rain, the river at Terre Haute should crest Thursday evening at around 17½ feet.

Other points along the Wabash River saw rising stages, also. At Montezuma, the river stood at 20-3 and was rising; Clinton, 19-6 and rising; and Covington, which was nearing a crest.

Shipe said the local area was practically the only region in the state affected greatly by the monsoon-like rains.

Sugar Creek was out of its banks at several points, but, at Crawfordsville, the level of the creek was rapidly falling.

Shipe stated the southern half of the state was more likely to receive the heaviest additional rainfall. He said it could expect between one-third

to two-thirds inches of rain today.

The hydrologist stated that additional rainfall amounts of around one inch would not increase the severity of the flooding dramatically.

"It's getting to the point now where it's not going to have that much effect... however, it may prolong the flooding," Shipe said.

The forecast for the rest of today, according to the National Weather Service in Indianapolis, calls for a chance of showers both tonight and Thursday.

But that — according to Shipe — is good news in itself. He said that "showers" aren't as likely to produce as heavy amounts of rain as "thundershowers" are.

The extended forecast calls for a chance of showers both Friday and Saturday with a gradual cooling trend

Sunday.

Meanwhile, the weather today and Thursday should determine whether hiking trails in popular Turkey Run State Park will be reopened in time for the Labor Day weekend.

The Department of Natural Resources closed the Parke County trails Tuesday when Sugar Creek ran five feet over its embankments.

DNR spokesman James Parham said if there was no more rain upstream for a day or two, the department should be able to reopen the trails for the Labor Day weekend. He said the decision would be made in a couple of days.

Randy Reed, park property manager, said the area around the main suspension bridge in the nature preserve was closed by the high water.

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